SHAKAR SAHIB, A SAINT OF KASHMIR

The author of this piece on Shakar Saheb is Late Sona Bakaya Moza, daughter of Shri Nand Lal Bakaya and wife of Shri Amar Nath Moza]. Sona Bakaya was a direct descendent of Sat Ram Bakaya [elder brother and guardian of Shakar Sahib who had no children.]

Aum Shakar Sahibaya Namah

I heard this story on Shakar Sahib from my father's mother, Veshmal Bakaya. Veshmal Bakaya was the wife of Shri Narayan joo Bakaya. I wrote the same story 60 years ago in Bhajans.

Now I am writing this from the perspective of the Bakaya khandan (family).

Shri Keshav Ram Pandit was the father of Shakar Saheb. At that time, Keshav Ram Pandit was the collector of Kamraj division. In those days, Pathans were the rulers. Shri Keshav Ram Pandit was a rich man, owning lot of land, property etc. People were jealous of him. His wife's family lived on the banks of the river which also passed the house of the Bhans.

The pathans were cruel to Keshav Ram Pandit and he was stoned to death by the pathans in front of the eyes of his wife's family. The descendents of Keshav Ram Pandit believed there was a famine in Kashmir during which Kehav Ram Pandit showed kindness to the farmers by not forcing them to pay taxes. The Pathans were furious because they didn't get the taxes.

Later a bridge was built at that spot and the bridge was named Kani Kadal. A stone is called Kani in Kashmiri.

After Keshav Ram Pandit's untimely death an outstanding amount was declared as debt owed by him. Bakaya is a term used to describe debt.

Because of this reason the family was called Bakaya family. Bakaya continued to be the last name of direct descendents of Keshay Ram Pandit.

The elder son of Keshav Ram Bakaya was Sat Ram Bakaya. The second son was Himmat Sahib. Govind Ram Bakaya was the third son. The youngest son was Shakar Sahib Bakaya. Shakar Sahib was only one year old when his father was killed.

The elder brother of Shakar Sahib, Sat Ram Bakaya was married to someone in the family of Birbal Kaul who was famous for his senior role as adviser and Minister of the Mughal emperor Akbar.

Maharaja Ranjit Singhji had given him a very good position.

He also got good properties with that position. He spent lot of the money on dharmarth.

His other brother Govindram Bakaya could not cope with the trauma resulting from his father's terrible death by stoning. Haunted by the memory of that traumatic event, he left Kashmir with his wife and moved to Lahore. Later we were told he eventually moved to Allahabad.

Sat Ram Bakaya and family continued to live in the Kani Kadal house.

Shri Shakar Sahib also stayed with his elder brother, because Sat Ram Bakaya did not have any children.

Govind Ram's wife went with her children to Sathoo Barbarshah. When Shakar Sahib was 5 or 6 he started going to school. There he got a takhti and pen.

Shakar Sahib used to take his takhti and pen to school and on the takhti he used to write only RAM RAM on the takhti repeatedly. He had no interest in studies and was immersed in RAM.

One day on his way back from school, Shakar Sahib bought a kabab and roti from a Muslim shopkeeper.

In those days there were lot of differences between Hindus and Muslims. Hindus who saw him eat the food prepared by a Muslim, resented this act.

They went to his mother asking her to expel Shakar Sahib from their house. The poor mother was very sad and asked him: Why did you do this? You brought so much anguish to our society. They won't let you stay here.

Seeing his anguished mother, he took her to the riverbank next to their house. He took out his intestines and washed them. The kabab and roti were still intact as if no one had chewed them. Every person watching this miracle was amazed. It was so unbelievable that someone could take out consumed food by emptying his stomach.

He asked all the spectators "Am I purified now or not?" The astonished spectators were dumbfounded and left the place silently.

Shakar Sahib's mother also forgave him and allowed him to stay in their house. This way he was engrossed in his bhajans.

His elder brother Sat Ram Bakaya owned lot of properties. He bought land in Rambagh and when asked what the purpose was for buying the land, Sat Ram Bakaya said it should be made my samadhi after I die. My brother Shakar Sahib is a "mastana", what will he do?

At that very moment Shakar Saheb gave him a vardaan [a promise/blessing] that he will be blessed with a daughter. Her offspring will continue the family clan for generations going forward.

After some time he was, indeed blessed with a daughter. Our Bakaya family are direct descendants of Sat Ram Bakaya's daughter.

In those days Kripa Ram was a very wealthy person. He was a disciple of Shakar Sahib. Whenever he would pass by the river in front of Shakar Sahib's house, he would visit Shakar Sahib. His boat had ghungroo made of silver and pedals for the boat were also made from silver. These would make a specific sound because of which Krima Ram was nicknamed Krip shrone [shrone means a particular sound made by a pedal pushing the water].

When Sat Ram Bakaya's daughter was born, Kripa Ram gifted them two bracelets/bangles made of gold and a dussa shawl.

Kripa Ram had lot of faith in Shakar Sahib. But on one occasion he passed by and forgot to greet Shakar Sahib with a Namaskar. On this occasion his boat got stuck and was unable to move forward. Then he realized his mistake.

He started praying. He used a rope made of grass to anchor his boat to the house. He walked up to pay obeisense to Shakar Sahib. From that day whoever would pass by the bridge in front of the house would chant "Shakar Shah Padshah" before moving forward.

As the years went by Shakar Sahib got more and more respect from disciples. His disciples included reputed families in Safa Kadal and every day after making food they would take a thali to him for bhog. One day someone made the meal jootha [impure], and when the thali was sent to Shakar Sahib two men dressed in black clothes came and said Our Shakar Shah padshah said Our Shakar Sahib does not eat this impure food. Take it back. The same day when they returned a member of their household who held a good position in was punished by black water in accordance with orders from Raja Ranjit Singh's darbar.

Then he went to Mahan nand joo's house who was a very wealthy individual. He came barefoot to Shakar Sahib and begged him for forgiveness. Shakar Sahib then comforted him and asked him not to be fearful; it was a mistake. When he was back at Maha Nand joo's place he found his order was withdrawn.

One of the maids of Shakar Sahib's mother was a Muslim but he would treat every one similarly without discrimination. One day that maid said she also does Shakar Sahib's work and asked for his blessing. Shakar sahib asked her to tell him what was her wish. The maid said she wished for her family to eat from a thali [tram] made of gold. Shakar Sahib said: Tathastoo [So be it!]. Upto now people from that village Bachgam, are more wealthy.

Shakar sahib's mother forced him to get married when he was only 10 years old. In those days Dila Ram was a very wealthy person. Shakar Sahib's marriage was arranged with Dila Ram's daughter.

When she was 13 she had her "gauna" after which she moved to Shakar Sahib's house.

But whenever she would enter Shakar Sahib's room she could not see him and could see only snakes and scorpions. For a few days she slept outside Shakar Sahib's room. But after a few days she told her father about this experience. But her father had lot of respect for Shakar Sahib. Her father had a good chat with her and asked her to continue to stay in the house of Shakar Sahib. Sadly, she died when she was only 18.

Dila Ram did not terminate his relations with Shakar Sahib. He treated Shakar Sahib with lot of respect. He would still visit his son-in-law and take gifts to Shakar Sahib on his birthdays. The gifts would be typically a pheran made from pashmina, a dussa shawl and a pot of yoghurt/curds. When the father-in-law left, Shakar Sahib would distribute among his disciples, the birthday gifts received by him.

In Kashmir there was a village called Batgund where one of his disciples named Shankar would hold prayers for Shakar Sahib. One day Shankar's family members came to see Shakar Saheb to give him the sad news of the passing away of Shankar. But Shakar Sahib did not believe them. He accompanied them to their village. On arrival Shakar Sahib sat next to the corpse; Shakar Sahib then lifted his cap from his head and placed it on the head of the corpse. At once, Shankar came back to life and sat up. On seeing this miracle all the people watching the miracle were stunned to see a dead man getting his life back. Since that time on that day people of that village perform a yagya/havan on the anniversary of Shakar Sahib's birth as well as death.

Hindus as well as Muslims accepted Shakar Sahib's extraordinary powers and Shakar Sahib was given a special title in recognition of his powers. A popular poem was composed In Kashyap's Kashmir produced many saints but the highest level was attained by Shakar Sahib.

Several objects belonging to Shakar Sahib were preserved as relics: his sandals, his pillow, his cap, his hookah and a scroll (book) on which RAM RAM was written by him hundreds of thousands of times. It is not known where his Takhti is. But it is said touching his relics brought about quick healing to the sick. We observed his sandals were used by our family to bring to an abrupt halt natural calamities like fire and flood. Pointing the sandal towards the advancing fire or flood would stop it from creating further damage.

Shakar Sahib's other brother who used to live in Sathoo preserved Shakar Sahib's sandals and charpoy, [bed]. Shakar Sahib's cap was preserved in Batgund village.

After some decades Sat Ram Bakaya's daughter got married to a Kotru boy from Rainawari. Sat Ram Bakaya was rich and gave away sandals made of gold and silver as dowry. This led to jealousy among people and they made verses to taunt the display of wealth Selection was made from gold and diamonds.

Sat Ram Bakaya's daughter gave birth to a son and daughter. The son was adopted by Sat Ram Bakaya. He was named Tota Ram Bakaya. Tota Ram got married to a girl from Kaul family in Alikadal. They had 3 sons. Shri Narayanjoo, Shri Man joo and Shri Damodar joo Bakaya. Narayan Bakaya got married at the age of 9 to the only daughter of Amar Chand Khosa. The marriage ceremony took place in Nageen Bagh. A few years later there was an earthquake occurred repatedly. Every person was evacuated from their houses. People had to live in boats because their houses had fallen because of the earthquake. All their belongings and documents. Information on the year of occupation in the house. In their house a cupboard was saved from damage. Tota Ram Bakaya's daughter was young when she was widowed. It is not known if the earthquake occurred before or after Tota Ram's death.

Narayan joo Bakaya's maternal uncle used to live with them. One day he dropped a cup of food and he had marks all over his body. The marks looked as if some one had beaten him. The marks were seen as punishment from Shakar Sahib.

In about the late 1930s / early 1940s Maharaja Hari Singh's brother-in law used to come for home tuitions to the Bakaya family.

His home tutor was late Shri Nand Lal Bakaya [also father of the author Sona Bakaya/Moza], son of Shri Narayan Joo Bakaya who was also a Master at Mission School.

The brother-in-law's name was Omkar Singh. He used to spend a lot of time in the home of Shri Nand Lal Bakaya. One day Omkar Singh said he will go to Shakar Saheb's prayer room in the Bakaya house. As soon as he entered the room, he got scared and thought Shakar Sahib was chasing him. Out of fear he ran away from the prayer room.

Footnotes

1. The author's husband Amar Nath Moza did a good service to India in 1947. He happened to be in Baramulla when the Kabalis raided Kashmir. He was one of the first people to escape from Baramulla in 1947 and rushed to the Bakaya home in Kani Kadal, Srinagar. On arrival in Kani Kadal he asked his brother-in law Shri Prem Nath Bakaya to communicate news of the Kabali aggression to the right people in Delhi. Shri Prem Nath Bakaya took him to the nearest telephone at the fire station. The telephone was monitored by Pakistan informers. They called PNB's contact, Daya

Nand Kachru who was Nehru's Secretary. Daya Nand Kachru's wife picked the phone, her husband was in the office with Nehru and his cabinet. Shri Amar Nath Moza cleverly uttered the following words "Shotur chav Varmul munz." When Nehru came to know about the aggression, he immediately flew Indian troops to Srinagar.

2.The relics of Shakar Sahib are currently in two places Shakar Sahib's pillow and Khadaon [footwear] are in the Jammu house of Shri Vijay Bakaya, IAS.

Anil Bakaya

के शक्त्रसाहिनाय तम: मेरे यह शक्त साहित की कहारी अपनी द्वारी अमिति ० यशामानी लामाया भी भी की भी नारया ज लाया भी भी की भी नारया ज लाया पहले बही कहानी मेंने किर मंजने मुक्त के लामा रहान की है यहाँ विस्ति की है यहाँ विस्ति की है यहाँ विस्ति की है यहाँ विस्ति की की कामराम पिता की की पानराम पिता की कामराम पिता की कामराम पिता की कामराम पिता ल्या उस अय कामगड १ डिविजन न मेले मेटर व्या। उस अमप वा कर मटर व्या। उस कामप पठाने का गड़्य व्या। वह उस कामप वह प्री व्या और उसकी पास की की कारा के जमीन स्थायहाद भी की कि और लोगी की अंग्रहाद वहीं लगता व्या। उसके क्षुस्माल वहीं की वात व्या। उसके क्षुस्माल वहीं की पठाने ने उस पर बड़ित्य भारत ही पट्यारी में भार उत्ति की किर उसी अगह एक युल बनाया अथा डिसामा नाम करिया कार्टी भी व्याप कार्टी भी व्याप कार्टी की व्याप कार्टी की परगार सर्भार अर्थ मेसा अस्मा व्यक्षामा रूस वयान्यान का नाम ही वयापा पड़ गमा। और तब से बयाया के राज के पह हातन लगे। यार बेट के राव लगाया के यार बेट के स त्वाज लगाया की यार बेट वाज लगाया गीविद्ध राज लगाया भीवद्ध वाज लगाया भीवद्ध राज लगाया भीवद्ध राज श्रम्य साहित तमाया। राम्य साहित जी कैतर एम भार के ही औं जल उनके पिरा ना क्रम माना नड़े भारा। स्व गवास्त हो गमा। बड़े बेट सेट-राष्ट्र बक्षाण का विवाह उस स्कूप स्वादेश को स्वाद्धात के स्वाद्धात के सादी हुई। उत्यक्ष भागी स्वाद्धात के सादी हुई। उत्यक्ष भागी स्वाद्धात के सादी हुई। उत्यक्ष स्वाद्धात के सामा था अगेर उत्ते का ध्या के सामा था अगेर उत्ते का ध्या के सामा ध्या के ही क्वस का ध्या के सादी की बिट्ट साम ब्याद्धा के अपने पार्ट के सार के सादी के सादी है स्वाद्धा की सादी करते हैं सादी के सार मार मा सादी करते हैं सादी है स्वाद्धा की सादी करते हैं सादी है सादी की हिंदी अपने ही उनमें से ति हो ने पता है। जो पता हो ने पता हो ने पता है पता है। जो पता हो ने पता है पता है पता है। जो पता है पता है पता है पता है पता है। जो पता है पता है पता है पता है पता है। जो पता है पता है पता है पता है पता है। जो पता है पता है पता है पता है पता है। जो पता है पता है पता है पता है। जो पता है पता है पता है पता है पता है। जो पता है पता है पता है पता है पता है पता है। जो पता है पता है पता है पता है पता है पता है। जो पता है पता है पता है पता है पता है पता है। जो पता है पता है पता है पता है पता है। जो पता है पता है पता है पता है पता है पता है। जो पता है पता है पता है पता है पता है पता है। जो पता है पता है। जो पता है पता है पता है पता है पता है। जो पता है पता है पता है पता है पता है। जो पता है अपने के करती सहित सम्बद्ध वरवर-

अत्वाम ब्राया व्याद्या स्टूट में मुमान भी की कर अपने दिता. भी की अवस्ति अपने की भी अब अभी सामर माहिस मी अन्तर को में भी भी में भाषी मतमें या भारे बाहमरी कारों की अध्यम कर विशेष के जी जी के आता भी अधावा देवववाव वाही

न्त्री में वरहा कि जव में गर्न ती भेनी अजाधी नहीं ब्राना भयों कि स्ति शक्त साहित ती स्कृतिता तभी हिया कि आप की एका पुत्री दुरीगों अर्थि किय अभी भी बनहतान की यह अत स्वात अनम् हुमा । कुर स्थान जिसकी सहता हो की यह जुले सतता 2311 उस अअय कुपाराम एक दारी ० यकित अरे कालर साहित ना जाफी मक्त था। बड उन्त भी उसा दिविया असे अल्ला व्या ती रिक्रां भी शामरें-आहित के पाम जाया भरता व्या। उसकी नाव में खाँदी के धिपनें तथा क चेप आही के शि की मूप अणिय पड़ जाया प्या जिल भी भूप बाल जी की बेटी हुई ती वह असे की बार्ड की आब द शाता लेकर असे पास आया। तथा काफी उनकी प्रति अहा बबब टा प्या। लेकिन एक अमय अब वह नावू में वहां मे माउन वहाँ लग उसे स्मान वान व अभवा ही मूल गया और कि पहले असमा नियम प्या मिन अंदेश अंदिन असम में क्या गद्दे अर्थ आर्थ असम से क्या गद्दे । तब उसी

अपनी गरंती का व्हमां हुआ और प्राथन की सम्मान की साम के समान की साम के समान की साम की साम की समान की साम क उसी प्रकार शाहिल की अहिंगा लड़ने लागी और आफा कह ल में रवा नहीं नी दार तारी री अगर्जे नउता था। अनु वाजा व नजीत हिंह की दर

नार में आड़ा तेन वह महान-विश्व हार जी मा नहीं ही शारा जाता था जेंग पान की शारा जाता था जेंग में अवाद शारा जाता था जेंग में अवाद शारा जाता था जाता की शारा शारा जाता की शारा जाता जा शारा जाता की शारा जाता था भा उद्यो जाता की शारा जा शारा की अवाद की शारा श्री अवाद की शारा जा शारा की अवाद की शारा शारा की अवाद की शारा शारा की अवाद की शारा शारा जाता की शारा की शारा जाता है। जिस की शारा की अवाद की शारा शारा जाता है। जिस की शारा जाता है। शारा जी शारा जाता की शारा की शारा जाता है। जिस की शारा अवाद शारा आही जाता की शारा अवाद शारा आही आही की शारा अवाद शारा आही आही की शारा अवाद शारा आही आही की शारा अवाद बार से आई। तब वह महात शाने जात है। साल भी उम्रा में भी शाम आहि भी भी जा में अभी अवन

उस्ती विवाह कर दिया। उसी अमय दिताराज्ञ एका वहत से दयाका आहमी प्या और प्रत संस्तत भी प्रवाह देशे करता प्या । उसी की विरोध कर राजक आहित का किवाह उका। जी वह 13 क्षाल की कुछ तो अकामा जी वहां अका अमें के वह क्षेत्रों के अम्म करित के मुंद्री की वह क्षेत्रों के प्रवाह की करित कर में अमें अमें विरोध के का कि आती तो उसे प्रति ति अस्त की कि आती तो उसे प्रति तो अस्त की कि आती तो उसे प्रति तो अस्त की कुछ क्षेत्र को अस्त की क्षेत्र की अस्त की कुछ वहां की के का की अस्त अस्त की कुछ क्षेत्र की अस्त अस्त की अस्त अस्त की कुछ का की अस्त अस्त की क्षेत्र की अस्त अस्त की अस क्रमीय में व्यटगुढ3

एक गाव है जहां शास्त्र नाम का एक व्यक्ति शास्त्र आहित का द्वित्य प्या तथा पूजा अञ्चला भवता था। एक हिन असके परिवाद वात शक्त -मृत्यु का समायार भागा निकार श्राम्य साहिन ने नहीं आना अंदि हिट्टू व असल्यात सामन लीव अपि बुद्रहें विवताल भी दिल्या गया जिसारी कियम प्या (मस्यप नी कारोरी मन्तात व-यटहाउँ शकाव-शाह विस्तात है आहि व क्समाह) अहिंदात कार्यप की नगरी क्समीर के मिलत के बाद माहित कार्यप की नगरी कारमीर की असमीर वस्तु अर्थ अर्थ वस्तु उर्ग उर्ग उर्ग अर्थ वस्तु वस्तु उर्ग अर्थ वस्तु वस्तु उर्ग अर्थ वस्तु वस्तु उर्ग अर्थ वस्तु वस्तु वस्तु वस्तु अर्थ वस्तु व वाश की पुरत्य मंभी भी हागार विकास पर के अवसी के अवसी

h 1

2व डाका व्यह जे दी । अ लोग काफी कर इहा। उरहे जलन हुई और उनके लिए उत्त हुई आर उत्त लिए शायरी असी (अशा अ अंड अन् त असा दिल व्यव माद्र औत्र विल स्तम त्याम आया) अपात की त्या स्वान कामा भारी के त्या स्वान की माने असे बीती के मूर्न अया। असे बीती के बाद स्वान कामा असे वित्र के बाद स्वान कामा अपने पास और लिया निसामा न वीत्रवाम व्यवा गया। तीत्रवाम वयाया र्धेय वाद मुहाल एक माल लगातार आया। सब लोगों की मका न केंने र गाहर नियाता स्रोय किशानियी २२वा गया वर्भी इनका मकान ्रि गया उसके साध्य सावा

सामान, सागर वर्गरा इनमा डिसर्म आवा हाल किया था। असे किया सालव हिनता की हाता था। सिहिफ उत्तर्भाः म्यात में एक सत्मारी खड़ी रही जिसमें शास्त्र साहित की सी में थी सन हैरात ही गय कि यह अत्मारी किस तरह मसात में खब गंड। बाकि जमीन भी फर्स गई थी। जी ती तवाम जाया की कर्ता थी वहां ही ती तवाम जा में ही विद्याना की रही ती तवाम जा के ही विद्याना की राहत ती तवाम जा का जा के जा या जू जिया व्या उसे ते । उ का में ही जी कारी। जात पीशन और शाही मी जारी। जात पात अपने जानी जाती। जात पात अपने जानी जाती। जात पात अपने जाती। जात पात अपने जाती। जात पात अपने जाती। जात अपने जाती। जात अपने जाती। जाती जाती। जाती। जाती जाती। जाती। जाती जाती। जाती

दे दिया। वासी हु दही में दिन्सी वीत्र पर लालग्र नहीं क्षिया। नार यया निस्या है भा भी भागा प था। वह एक दिन अपनी बहुन के करा के करा की उसके व्याना विवास विवास । उसकी पूर्व व्यान प्रमान के निवास ही जीय जैसे प्रमान की जीय जैसे द्वे उस को मायता था। यह शक्त साहित मा अगात था। इनकी वर्ष में महायाजा हरी किंह भे पट्नी की भाउ का दें। जी नारायशा नू वकाया जी 1वह लड़का नहिंद लाल - वकाया जी 1वह शिरान के मूल में आक्टर क्यें। शिरान के मूल में आक्टर क्यें। भीर हमारे ध्वर में एक स्माल तक बहुत ध्वे। इस लड़के का गाम औं भार दिन है था। । एक दिन उसने कहा कि में शकर साहित के कमरे के गामगा। मार देश्व मा शास्त्र आह्य भीन